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Wednesday, August 11, 2010

THE MORNING NEWS

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Stephen and Lori Troy honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba



Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority honored two loyal visitors in gratitude of their love for Aruba. Stephen and Lori Troy of Medford, New York, have been vacationing here for 10 consecutive years at their home away from home, the Playa Linda Beach Resort.

Stephen recalls that since the first time they came here

they fell in love with the island, friendly people, nice weather, clean beaches with its crystal clear water, the variety of restaurants and the hot sun the whole year round.

During their 10 years coming here the Troys made a lot of friends and are always recommending others to visit Aruba.

Their love for Aruba is so

big that at their house they have a room called "Aruba room" where they expose all the souvenirs and articles bought or received from Aruba. And on their very first visit here Stephen got a tattoo of an Aruban landscape on his arm.

The Troys expressed to be glad and very thankful to the people of Aruba for the honor bestowed on them and said they will continue coming here until they become Ambassador of Goodwill of Aruba, an honor given by the Aruba government to visitors coming here for 20 or more consecutive years.

During a small ceremony on their behalf, Stephen and Lori Troy received a handsome certificate from the hands of Aruba Tourism Authority associate Amayra Boekhoudt.

Present at the occasion was Playa Linda Beach Resort representative Yvette Tromp.

Looking for someone to adopt me



Hi, I am Sonic

I would like to introduce myself. I am one of the donkeys that are sheltered at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary organization. For a really long time I roamed the island on my own, but finding food proved to be more and more difficult. With increasing traffic, life became quite hazardous for a donkey like me. Now and then I visited a ranch, but the people there were not overjoyed with my presence. They accused me of making a lot of noise and thus disturbing the riding lessons.

At the ranch children took lessons on mini horses and during the lessons there should not be any noise. The people used to chase me away, but, like a true, headstrong donkey, I always returned. In the end the people of the ranch called the Donkey Sanctuary and they took me in a trailer to the

Sanctuary at Santa Lucia. It took some getting used to, but now I love the place.

According to the volunteers I am now a great, friendly donkey, but in the beginning I was quite naughty. One of the other donkeys once hit me against my behind and therefore I still limp a bit. So actually I am quite an expensive donkey, as they have had to call the vet for me.

That is why I am trying to find people who want to adopt me. I will still stay at the Donkey Sanctuary, but you just need to pay thirty florins per month for my upkeep. You help the Sanctuary this way and me as well. You will receive a nice document and a fantastic tee-shirt.

Can you call the Shelter please? The number is 593-2933. You can also become a sponsor via our website www.arubandonkey.org. Please help.

NY buses to carry ads against "Ground Zero" mosque

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - Some New York city buses will carry ads protesting plans to build a mosque near Ground Zero, where the Twin Towers were destroyed by Al-Qaeda on September 11, 2001, the city transportation authority said Wednesday.

The ad asks "Why there?"

and features the picture of a jet airliner about to crash into the World Trade Center, evoking memories of the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

The ads will run in 26 of the city's 6,300 buses, said Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) spokesman Kevin Ortiz.

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UN to launch appeal for Pakistan flood disaster

SUKKUR, Pakistan (AFP) — The United Nations is launching an appeal to help 13.8 million people hit by floods that have devastated swathes of the country and created one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said the disaster had eclipsed the scale of the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan and the January

2010 earthquake in Haiti put together.

About 1.5 million people have been evacuated in the south and 1.5 million hectares of valuable farmland destroyed in central Punjab province, while the worst hit has been the northwest, already struggling with Taliban violence.

"We will soon issue an... appeal for several hundred million dollars to respond to immediate needs," UN chief Ban Ki-moon announced, stressing

that medium- and long-term assistance "will be a major and protracted task."

UN special envoy Jean-Maurice Ripert said hundreds of millions of dollars would be needed to address the urgent humanitarian needs and billions for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructure and livelihoods.

Just hours after the appeal was announced, the U.S. raised its pledge to the flood-hit region from 35 to 55 million dollars.

China mudslide death toll tops 700

ZHOUQU, China (AFP) — Hopes of finding survivors of China's worst mudslides faded today as the death toll reached 702 with more than 1,000 people still missing under waves of rock and sludge.

At least three villages were levelled by an avalanche of mud and rocks triggered by heavy rains Saturday in a remote area of the northwest province of Gansu -- the latest deadly disaster as China battles widespread flooding.

A 52-year-old man was pulled alive from his toppled apartment building yesterday, more than 50 hours after the

disaster, and other rescue teams heard "very faint" signs of life in another area, the state news agency Xinhua said.

But the director of Gansu's civil affairs department, Tian Baozhong, painted a grim picture, telling reporters yesterday that the death toll had more than doubled overnight while the number of missing had dropped only slightly to 1,042.

With rain forecast for the rest of the week, Premier Wen Jiabao urged the thousands of rescuers in hard-hit Zhouqu to hurry, but acknowledged the task would be an arduous one.

US Senate legend Stevens killed in Alaska plane crash

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Legendary former US Senator Ted Stevens was among five fatalities after a small plane carrying nine people slammed into a remote Alaska mountainside, officials said Tuesday.

Stevens, 86, the longest-serving Republican in Senate history before being voted out of office in 2008, was on board

a flight which also included EADS North America chief Sean O'Keefe, the former boss of US space agency NASA.

O'Keefe, 54, and his teenage son were among four who survived the crash Monday night in poor weather near Aleknagik, about 300 miles (480 kilometers) southwest of Anchorage.

President Barack Obama led the tributes to Stevens, a

decorated World War Two pilot who had already cheated death in a 1978 plane crash in Anchorage which claimed the life of his first wife, Ann.

The Anchorage Daily News said Stevens was flying to the Agulowak Lodge, owned by the GCI company which also owns the single engine de Havilland Canada DHC-3 Otter seaplane that crashed.

Former Mexico president supports legalizing drugs

MEXICO CITY — Vicente Fox, the former Mexican president who was a key US ally in the war on drugs, has backed the legalization of drugs, saying prohibition has failed to curb Mexico's spiraling violence and corruption.

Fox, whose successor Felipe Calderon is mired in a bloody military campaign against powerful drug cartels, criticized the government's anti-drugs strategy on his blog, joining the ranks of other Latin American leaders who say the war on drugs is fundamentally flawed.

"Legalization does not mean that drugs are good ... but we have to see (legalization of the production, sale and distribution of drugs) as a strategy to weaken and break the economic system that allows cartels to earn huge profits," Fox wrote in a posting over the weekend. "Radical prohibition strategies have never worked."

Violence is escalating in Mexico, where cartels earn billions of dollars a year as they battle for lucrative routes smuggling cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine and other illegal drugs into the United States.

An estimated 28,000 people

have died since late 2006, when Calderon sent soldiers and police across the country to battle drug gangs. The United States is funneling hundreds of millions of dollars into beefing up Mexico's ability to chase cartels.

Yet there are few signs Mexico has turned the corner on what may be the defining issue of Calderon's presidency. Many Mexicans now fear violence could deter business and investment, especially if it becomes more generalized.

"Although we know that many of the deaths are criminals killed by their rivals, unfortunately there are also officials, police and innocent people who have died," Fox said. He suggested the army, which has been accused of rights abuses as they go after drug suspects across Mexico, should return to the barracks.

"They are not prepared for police work," Fox wrote.

While Calderon, like Fox a member of the conservative PAN party, opposes legalizing drugs, he has said that he supports a public debate on the issue. Since leaving office in 2006, Fox is seen as having little political influence in Mexico.

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Ingrid Does
Manager

Rosalinda Maduro
Chandette Richardson
Editors

Milton Jones
Project Coordinator & Graphic Designer

Rosalie Klein
Reporter / Photographer

Yvonne Kromhout
P.R., Sales & Marketing

Yanis Garcia
Sales

News Provider:
AFP-Agence France Presse

Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111
Tel: 588-9517 - Fax: 588-9518

E-mail:
themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

Website:
www.themorningnewsaruba.com

Burning Russia battles to defend nuclear sites

MOSCOW, Russia (AFP) — Russia fought a deadly battle yesterday to prevent wildfires from engulfing key nuclear sites as Prime Minister Vladimir Putin took to the air in a water-bombing plane to join the firefighting effort.

Two soldiers were killed by blazing trees as they strove to put out a fire dangerously close to Russia's main nuclear research centre, while workers were also mobilised to fight blazes near a nuclear reprocessing plant.

After almost two weeks of fires that have claimed over 50 lives and part destroyed a military storage site, the authorities said they were making progress in fighting fires that still covered 174,035 hectares

of land.

Putin visited the Ryazan region south of Moscow, one of the worst hit, and jumped into a Be-200 jet to scoop up water from local lakes and then dump it on the fires, state media said.

The emergencies ministry said that over the past 24 hours, 247 new fires had appeared, more than the 239 had been put out, and 557 fires were still raging across the affected region.

The authorities have come under pressure to explain the magnitude of effects of the heatwave, which meteorologists have said is the worst in the 1,000-year history of Russia.



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De Hoop Scheffer advises Wilders not to speak

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, former Nato general secretary, has advised Geert Wilders not to make a speech during the anti-mosque demonstration on September 11 in New York.

He says people abroad do not know who is in the cabinet and who is in parliament. 'When a Dutch politician appears at an event like this, then you have to assume they don't see the difference between a coalition party and a party that is giving support.'

De Hoop Scheffer says he is personally against the building of a mosque close to Ground Zero. But he thinks it inadvisable for Wilders to speak as he will be seen as representing the Netherlands.

On Monday Maxime Verhagen said he would react with 'sharp words' if Wilders said anything to damage Dutch interests.



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Colombia, Venezuela seek to end dispute



SANTA MARTA, Colombia (AFP) -- Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and his Venezuelan counterpart Hugo Chavez met yesterday to try to patch up trade and diplomatic ties torn by long-simmering border conflicts.

The two leaders met in the Caribbean city of Santa Marta for what Santos, who took office on Saturday, said would be "frank and direct" talks on a crisis that peaked last month after Colombia accused Caracas of harboring Colombian rebels.

After taking the oath of office Santos moved quickly to set a new course with Venezuela, distancing himself from the confrontational stance taken by his predecessor and mentor, Alvaro Uribe.

"We're optimistic, we really want this meeting to produce sure and lasting results for the

good of our peoples," Santos said yesterday.

But he added: "I believe that after the meeting we'll really be able to know the results."

"We want to build peace between us, whatever it costs," Chavez said as he arrived in Colombia.

Also present at the meetings were UNASUR (Union of South American Nations) Secretary General Nestor Kirchner and Venezuelan Minister of Foreign Affairs Nicolas Maduro and his counterpart Maria Angela Holguin.

The two leaders -- who have opposing ideologies and have exchanged heated words in the past -- met in private in the house where Simon Bolivar, a South American independence hero and Chavez's idol, died in 1830.

Fitch affirms Aruba Airport Authority N.V. at 'BBB'; outlook stable

ORANJESTAD -- After Moody's assessment in June 2010 to maintain Aruba Airport Authority N.V.'s Baa3 credit rating with Stable Outlook, Fitch Ratings recently affirmed Aruba Airport Authority N.V.'s 'BBB' underlying long-term rating on approximately US\$38.6 million outstanding airport revenue bonds. The rating outlook is again stable. According to Fitch Ratings; the following can be highlighted, supporting the rating:

The airport is performing in line with expectations with no deterioration in operations since the previous review. The rating affirmation reflected:

1. a strong debt service coverage ratio of 2.18 times (x);

2. steady enplanements compound annual growth rate (CAGR) at 2.1% since 2004;

3. adequate internally-funded capital improvement plan with no near-term future issuances planned;

4. a relatively short amortization profile of the authority's outstanding revenue bonds; and

5. the ability for the airport to modify tariffs passenger facility charges (PFCs) as needed, without regulatory interference by the government. The airport's finances are healthy, management is responding to economic swings accordingly, strategic agreement with Schiphol International is providing positive results, and an adequate capital

expenditures plan is in place. Schiphol's long experience in airports operations has been instrumental to design and implement adequate plans and strategies to achieve specific goals. This relationship is expected to continue for at least five years.

Current capital improvement plans can be internally funded. Medium-term capital requirements can be covered with operating cash flows and restricted cash balances, without near-term future debt issuance planned. The airport shows some financial flexibility due to

1. the fact that no further debt will be issued, and

2. maturity of the bonds, in 2013 and 2015.

Going forward, Fitch expects the strategic relationship with Schiphol international to continue providing substantial improvements to the airport's operations. While diversification of revenues is forecasted to take place slowly, non-aeronautical revenues are expected to make larger contributions. In the mean time, Fitch will continue to closely monitor traffic and passenger trends. Adequate levels of debt service are believed to remain stable; since the airport proved to be resilient to external economic shocks.

Fitch anticipates a slight growth in enplanements for the airport during 2010 and 2011.



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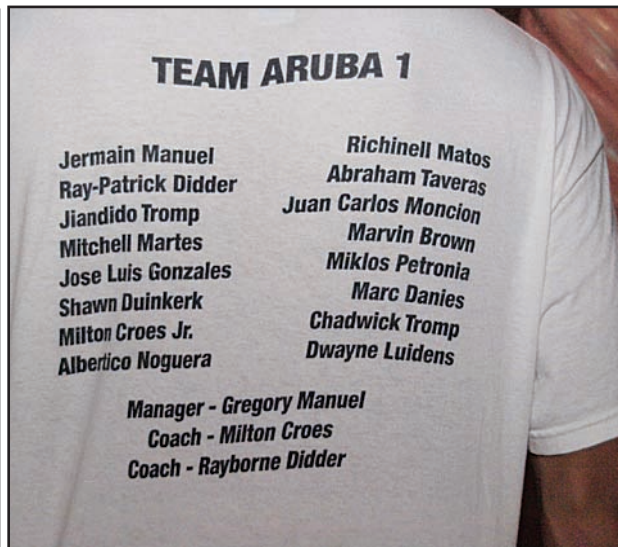
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Aruba's Latin American Senior League Champions are off to the World Series With a little help from Paseo Herencia!



Drawing the winners



List of entire team



Players with Sharmaine Tromp



Wall of Fame for the Latin Champions

A few weeks ago, Arubans the regional playoffs and the cheered as their Senior title of Latin American League baseball team won Champions on their home

ground, as the island hosted the playoffs this year. Sixteen Aruban athletes between the ages of 14 and e8 and their coaches will depart tomorrow for Bangor, Maine to compete in the Senior League World Series, determined to bring home the title of World Champions.

Paseo Herencia Mall has been a strong sponsor of the team, honoring their accomplishment by dedicating a "Wall of Fame" to the players on Sunday, August 8, and also providing prizes for a raffle to assist them in raising funds for the journey.

On Monday evening, during the weekly Folkloric Night in the Plaza Padu, they conducted the drawing for prizes while showcasing the young champions. Mitchell Martes, Jose Gonzalez, Dwayne Luidens and the starting pitcher from the final game where Aruba beat Puerto Rico, Shawn Duinker, were on hand to pick the winners.

Contributing prizes of gift certificates to speed the team on their way were Scala, Haagan Dazs, Moby Dick's, Taste of Belgium, TGI Friday's, Nobushi and Iguana Cantina Restaurants as well as El Gaucho in town. Shops participating in the fundraising were Mario Hernandez, Kristies, and Daimari Stables.

Last year, Aruba's Senior League players came home from Bangor, Maine with the third place title. This year's team declared they are looking forward to their turn at bat to be World Champions, and expressed their sincere gratitude for the sponsorship of Paseo Herencia and their efforts to send them on their way.

by Rosalie Klein

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The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varela, Luisa and the next generation of chef

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varela Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varela's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa was in the mood to prepare.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

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An Aruba without Troupial, Prikichi, Patrishi or Shoco? Invasive Boa constrictor serious threat to Aruba's beloved bird populations!



The presence of the invasive Boa constrictor was first documented in Aruba in April of 1999. Ever since, the numbers of boas caught by the Park Rangers has been impressive. Hundreds are caught each year and only those seen in areas frequented by persons who then notify the Rangers for their assistance. It is safe to presume that a multifold of those caught actually live in Aruba's wildlife.

Quite some places in the world have been confronted with invasive snake situations. The saddest being that of the

Brown Tree Snake in Guam. Insufficient action was taken to keep the snake's population under control. The consequences now are that several endemic species of animals, including birds have become extinct.

Scientists, up to this day, have no off-the-shelf solution for such undesired intrusions. Many researches are being conducted and the hope is that one day they might find an effective and efficient solution. Reality of the matter is that if we take a passive stance in Aruba towards the boa while waiting for others to come with

a solution, that we will live to regret it. Such a day may come sooner than we could imagine. The boa gets more offspring than the Brown Tree Snake.

Aruba Birdlife Conservation is in discussion with Parke Nacional Arikok on developing a practical plan to keep the boa numbers in check. "In the coming weeks we hope to present at least a temporary solution to help save our birds and other fauna species. We are also working on an analysis of the estimated impact of the boa on the bird populations and hope to publish these findings

shortly," a spokesperson said.

"The scenario that one day in our future an Aruban grandmother has to explain to her grandchildren that we used to have birds named Troupial, Prikichi, Patrishi and Shoco, but that since the boa got loose in our wildlife they have become extinct because we did nothing about it, is simply not an acceptable story. We must act soon or regret later" he added.

The pictures were taken on August 10, 2010, at 7:00 a.m., and demonstrate how a Boa constrictor laying in ambush

on a branch catches and devours a Yellow Oriole that unfortunately landed on that location (in Papiamentu a Gonzalito or also a Troupial Kachó, in Dutch 'Gele Troepiaal'; scientific: *Icterus nigrogularis*). This beautiful bird is classified in Aruba as a 'scarce breeding resident'. From catching the bird, constricting it and devouring it whole, head first, took less than 15 minutes. The Park Rangers later caught the snake.

The pictures were taken by Greg Peterson, president of Aruba Birdlife Conservation.

Schedule for the week of:
Aug 12 - Aug 18

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daily:	6.00 - 8.30	daily:	6.00 - 8.30
matinee:	1.15 - 3.30	matinee:	1.00 - 3.30
late show:	11.00 R	late show:	11.00 PG-13
THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE		THE OTHER GUYS	
daily:	6.15 - 9.00	daily:	4.00 - 6.30 - 9.00
matinee:		matinee:	1.30
late show:	11.30 PG	late show:	11.45 PG-13
THE KARATE KID		THE LAST AIRBENDER	
daily:		daily:	7.00 - 9.15
matinee:	12.15 - 3.15	matinee:	
late show:	PG	late show:	11.30 PG
GROWN UPS		GROWN UPS	
daily:	4.45 - 7.00 - 9.15	daily:	
matinee:	12.00 - 2.30	matinee:	12.00 - 2.30
late show:	11.45 PG-13	late show:	PG-13
TOY STORY 3 3D		DESPICABLE ME 3D	
daily:	6.15	daily:	4.45
matinee:	12.50 - 3.30	matinee:	12.15 - 2.30
late show:	PG	late show:	PG
SALT		SALT	
daily:	8.45	daily:	5.15 - 7.30 - 9.45
matinee:		matinee:	
late show:	11.00 PG-13	late show:	12.00 PG-13
DESPICABLE ME 3D		TOY STORY 3 3D	
daily:	4.30	daily:	5.00
matinee:	12.00 - 2.15	matinee:	12.00 - 2.30
late show:	PG	late show:	PG
INCEPTION		STEP UP 3D	
daily:	4.45 - 8.00	daily:	7.30 - 9.45
matinee:	1.30	matinee:	
late show:	11.00 PG-13	late show:	12.00 PG-13
STEP UP 3D		INCEPTION	
daily:	6.45 9.00	daily:	5.00 - 8.00
matinee:		matinee:	1.45
late show:	11.30 PG-13	late show:	11.15 PG-13

*The Expendables will start Friday August 13

WILL FERRELL MARK WAHLBERG theOTHERguys



THE OTHER GUYS (ACTION/ADVENTURE AND COMEDY) - Detective Allen Gamble is a forensic accountant who's more interested in paperwork than hitting the streets. Detective Terry Hoitz is a tough guy who has been stuck with Allen as his partner ever since an unfortunate run-in with Derek Jeter. Allen and Terry idolize the city's top cops, Danson and Highsmith, but when an opportunity arises for the Other Guys to step up, things don't quite go as planned.

Science/Tech

The incredible explosion of dog breeds

From a teacup-size Chihuahua to a Great Dane, there is an incredible amount of variety among dog breeds. But all breeds belong to a single species, so scientists have studied the breeds to better understand the workings of evolution, and how such great variation could have arisen within one group.

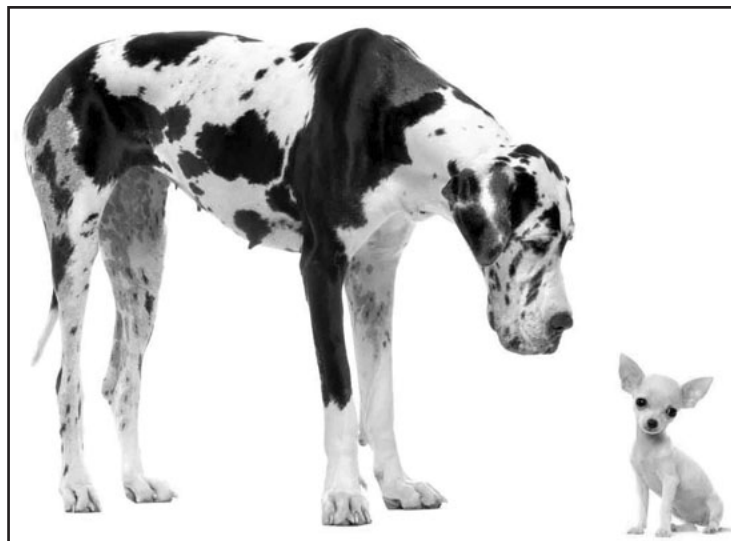
The dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*) is far more variable in size, shape and behavior than any other living mammal, but most experts now believe that all dogs, no matter how different, originated exclusively from a single species: the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) of central Asia, said James Serpell, professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and editor of "The Domestic Dog: Its Evolution, Behaviour, and Interactions With People" (Cambridge University Press, 1995).

It's also likely that there was just one domestication event, and all domesticated dogs today descended from an ancestral wolf-dog that became someone's best friend long ago. The evidence comes from a 2009 study in which a team of researchers at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm analyzed samples of mitochondrial DNA (the DNA found in mitochondria, or energy-making structures within cells) from dogs around the world.

They found that all dogs belong to one lineage, which indicates that domestication occurred just one time. (If wolves were domesticated several times in various regions, the team would expect to find more than one lineage among modern dogs.)

Despite the fact that dogs were first domesticated about 14,000 to 17,000 years ago, most dog breeds were developed within the last few centuries. When ancient humans bred dogs for features such as a louder bark (for added protection of their owner's property) or a docile temperament (so it would be less likely to lash out at its owner), they were actually already tinkering with the selection of dog genes.

One of the earliest breeds believed to be purposefully selected for its preferred traits is still around today - the greyhound. Perhaps the first fully distinct breed was the Saluki, also called the Arabian greyhound, whose name



translates to "noble," according to "Simon & Schuster's Guide to Dogs" (Fireside, 1980).

"Selective cross-breeding has been done since antiquity, but it really accelerated during the 19th century," said Leslie Irvine of the University of Colorado at Boulder, who is author of "If You Tame Me: Understanding Our Connection with Animals" (Temple University Press, 2004).

Over time, because of natural mutations, climate and human preferences, "breeds became ever more numerous and specialized until they reached the point of modern classification," according to "Guide to Dogs." This classification is based on the aptitude of a breed in five skills: hunting, shepherding, guarding, work and company.

Now, there are about 340 breeds recognized by the Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI), the world

governing body of dog breeds, sometimes known as the World Canine Organization. But the standards for breed recognition vary from country to country - the American Kennel Club currently recognizes only 167 breeds.

Recently, the number of deliberately crossbred "designer dogs" has been growing. These include the labradoodle (a cross between a Labrador and a poodle), the cockapoo (a cross between a cocker spaniel and a poodle) and the puggle (the offspring of a pug and a beagle).

"Dogs are constantly evolving as we're continually building variants of dog breeds," said Stanley Coren, author of "The Modern Dog" (Free Press, 2008).

"The nature of humans is to want unique things, but a unique thing is not necessarily a better thing," Coren said.

Mankind must abandon earth or face extinction: Hawking

LONDON (AFP) - Mankind's only chance of long-term survival lies in colonising space, as humans drain Earth of resources and face a terrifying array of new threats, warned British scientist Stephen Hawking on Monday.

"The human race shouldn't have all its eggs in one basket, or on one planet," the renowned astrophysicist told the website Big Think, a forum which airs ideas on many subjects from experts.

"Our only chance of long-term survival is not to remain inward looking on planet Earth, but to spread out into space," he added.

He warned that the human race was likely to face an increased number of events that

threaten its very existence, as the Cuban missile crisis did in 1962.

The Cold War showdown saw the United States and Soviet Union in a confrontation over Soviet missiles deployed in Cuba, near US shores, and brought the world to the brink of nuclear war.

"We are entering an increasingly dangerous period of our history," said Hawking.

"Our population and our use of the finite resources of planet Earth are growing exponentially, along with our technical ability to change the environment for good or ill."

If we want to survive beyond the next century, "our future is in space," added the scientist.

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HEALTH - LIVING

WHO declares swine flu pandemic is over

GENEVA (AFP) — The World Health Organisation on Tuesday declared the swine flu pandemic over, more than a year after the new virus spread around the world, sparking panic and killing thousands before fizzling out.

"The world is no longer in phase six of the pandemic alert. We are now moving into the post-pandemic period," WHO Director General Margaret Chan said in a telephone news conference.

"The new H1N1 virus has largely run its course," she added, saying an international public health emergency "no longer applies."

The top phase of the WHO's six tier pandemic alert scale corresponds to a pandemic, or global spread of a disease.

The step followed advice given earlier Tuesday by the WHO's advisory emergency committee of 15 external scientists headed by Australian infectious diseases expert John Mackenzie, which heard evidence from representatives of Australia, Argentina, New Zealand and South Africa.

The WHO's top flu official, Keiji Fukuda, told journalists that the A(H1N1) influenza virus was no longer considered to be capable of causing another pandemic, even if more severe outbreaks might occur in some countries.

Swine flu has killed more than 18,449 people and affected some 214 countries and territories since it was uncovered in Mexico and the United States in April 2009, according to WHO data.

The new virus spread swiftly worldwide despite drastic measures including a week long shutdown in Mexico, prompting the UN health agency to scale up its alerts and declare a pandemic on June 11, 2009, banishing kisses and frowning on handshakes.

Fears about the impact of swine flu on unprotected populations and a harmful mutation sparked a rush for hundreds of millions of dollars worth of specially-developed vaccines and a flurry of public health precautions.

However, those concerns dwindled in late 2009 to be

replaced by recriminations in Western nations about the cost of unused vaccines and what some European critics regarded as an unjustified scare.

Fukuda said Tuesday that said about 300 million people had been vaccinated worldwide against A(H1N1).

After petering out in Europe and the United States before their winter flu season was over, in recent months swine flu has affected parts of South Asia and "limited areas" of tropical South and Central America, as well as Africa for their second season.

But unlike 2009, when A(H1N1) ousted most other types of flu viruses around the world, known seasonal viruses now are prevalent and even dominant in countries such as South Africa.

Chan acknowledged that swine flu was no longer "crowding out" other virus types and was behaving like seasonal flu, while populations appeared to have built up a degree of immunity thanks to exposure last year or vaccination.

Tip: Back-to-School Tips on Backpack Safety



As the new school year approaches, parents and children planning their "back-to-school" lists are urged to keep backpack safety in mind.

Each year, children experience backpack-related injuries, Linda Rhodes, an occupational therapist at MCGHealth Children's Medical Center in Augusta, Ga., explained in a news release from the medical center.

In an effort to cut down on the number of these injuries, Rhodes offers parents the following backpack safety advice:

- * Choose a lightweight backpack that doesn't add too much to your child's load. The pack should have two wide, padded shoulder straps and a padded back that will improve comfort and protect your child from being poked by the sharp points and edges of pencils, pens, rulers and other objects they need to carry.
- * Select the proper size backpack for your child. It should cover no more than three-quarters of the length of your child's back.
- * Load backpacks carefully. The maximum weight of a loaded pack should not be more than 15 percent of a child's body weight. Place the heaviest books closest to the back as they require the most body support. If a child has to lean forward to carry a pack, it's too heavy.
- * Have your child wear the pack correctly. He or she should use both shoulder straps. Carrying a backpack on one shoulder puts too much strain on one side of the upper body. The straps should be snug, but not too tight. If a backpack has a waist strap, use it to help better support the load.



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More than just shopping

Divi's new Golf Pro helps the Links Ladies take their game to the next level



This past weekend the Links Ladies came together at the Divi Links, where they were introduced to the new Divi Golf Pro, Donald Ross. After introductions were made, the members of the Links Ladies enjoyed a short golf clinic at Divi's Learning Center, where Ross used his Feel Golf teaching method to help the ladies improve their game.

"Don is a Scotsman who is joining us from Spain, where he ran several Golf schools over the past decades," explains Tabitha Fecunda, Divi's Island Marketing & Promotion Manager.

"He is an ex-European tour player who is also an expert golf teacher. He is helping us to take golf to the next level," she says.

The participants were able to immediately put their newly acquired knowledge and skills to the test with a game of 18 holes stroke play. The 1st Gross winner of the day was Libby Ter Weeme, while Annie van Schaick became the 1st Net winner. The Longest Drive was made by Diny Grol, and Angela Pochettino won the title of Nearest to the Pin.

The tournament was followed by a cocktail party on the deck of Mulligan's Golf Café, Bar & Restaurant, where prizes were given to the winners, including a selection of dinner certificates.

Photos show the Links Ladies enjoying their day with Divi's new Golf Pro Donald Ross





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Ben Stein

Breakfast

7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

<p>EGG DISHES</p> <p>*2 eggs sunny side up with ham & cheese</p> <p>*Scrambled with ham, cheese, onions, green pepper, tomato, mushroom</p> <p>*Plain omelettes with ham, cheese, onion, green pepper, tomato, mushroom</p> <p>All egg dishes are served with a choice of : white or whole wheat baguette or sliced toasted bread.</p> <p>*PASTECHEI HORNA</p> <p>*CRÊPES</p> <p>*SWEET CRÊPES</p> <p>*BAGEL with cream cheese, smoked salmon, boiled egg</p>	<p>LOCAL BREAKFAST</p> <p>*Pan grandi (di rama) or baguette</p> <p>*KERRIE-KERRIE (FISH)</p> <p>*CONCH</p> <p>*FISH EGG</p> <p>*SHRIMPS</p> <p>*FISH FILLET</p> <p>*FISH CAKE</p> <p>*CHICKEN SOUP</p> <p>*FRUIT SALAD & YOGHURT</p> <p>* HOT BEVERAGES</p> <p>* COLD BEVERAGES</p>
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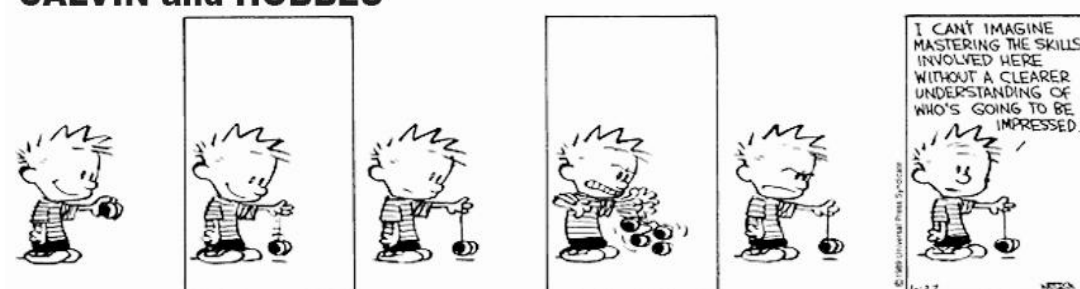
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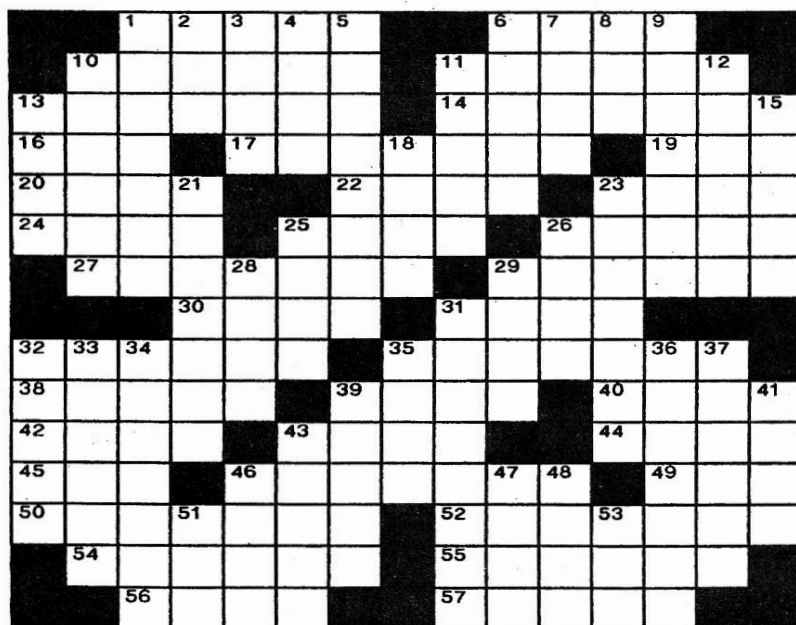
1. Explode
6. New Mexico town
10. Upper house
11. Fled
13. Rescue
14. Happiness
16. Cantor's wife
17. Matriculates
19. Menagerie
20. Cisterns
22. Flag
23. Teeth-holders
24. Solar disk
25. Gala affair
26. Blender output
27. Blue-pencillers
29. Gives rise to
30. Split and chick enders
31. Paid athletes
32. Attraction
35. Satisfies
38. Kind of bracelet
39. Scratch
40. Give out
42. d'oeuvres
43. Observed
44. Descartes
45. Opposite of WSW
46. Unfamiliar
49. Hospital workers: abbr.
50. Fake choppers

DOWN

52. Infuriates
54. Supplies
55. Reared
56. Gush
57. Strides
1. Unpunctual
2. Single: prefix
3. Good review
4. British gun
5. Hunting dogs
6. Rings
7. Ah, me!
8. Baseball great
9. Fit
10. Composed
11. Disprove
12. Fated

PUZZLE 45

13. Operatic luminary
15. Sniffs
18. Plate scrapings
21. Those in ambush
23. Surmiser
25. Young horse
26. Malay canoe
28. Mets, for one
29. Make tea
31. Developers
32. Pained
33. Calls
34. Archie and Edith, to Gloria
35. Legal action
36. Comes out
37. Disobeyed badly
39. Demeter's counterpart
41. Tracy's Trueheart
43. Throw about
46. You bet!
47. Biting fly
48. New York lake
51. Spinning toy
53. Egyptian cobra



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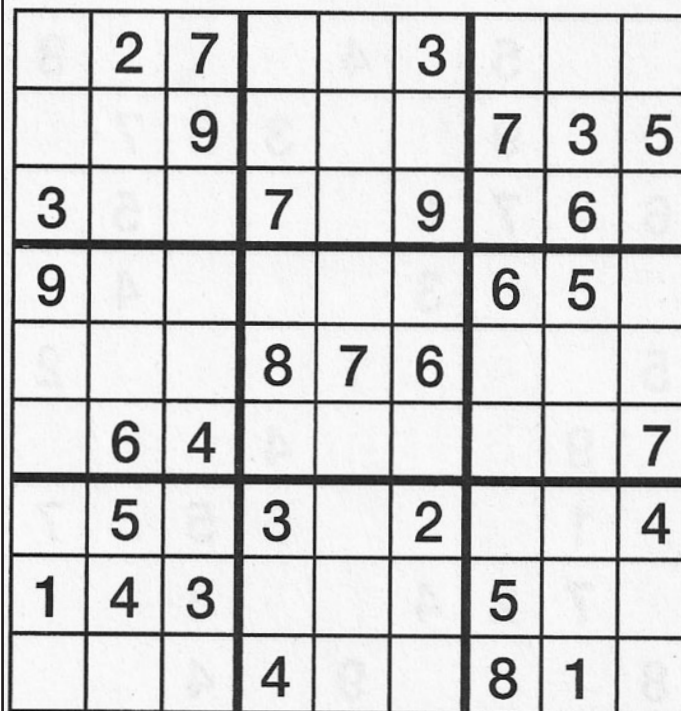
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

6	2	7	1	5	3	4	9	8
4	1	9	6	2	8	7	3	5
3	8	5	7	4	9	1	6	2
9	7	8	2	3	4	6	5	1
5	3	1	8	7	6	2	4	9
2	6	4	5	9	1	3	8	7
8	5	6	3	1	2	9	7	4
1	4	3	9	8	7	5	2	6
7	9	2	4	6	5	8	1	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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US productivity dips for first time since 2008

WASHINGTON (AFP) – US productivity fell unexpectedly in the second quarter for the first time since late 2008, the Labor Department said yesterday, reflecting a slowing economy.

Non-farm productivity declined 0.9 percent in the April-June period, the first fall since the last quarter of 2008, when productivity contracted 0.1 percent, the department said.

"The decline in output per hour follows five quarters of strong productivity growth," it said in a report.

Most economists had expected labor productivity -- based output of workers per hour -- to rise 0.1 percent from

a upwardly revised 3.9 percent growth in the January-March period.

Labor costs increased 0.2 percent in the second quarter, the first rise in a year.

Markets had expected labor costs to increase 1.4 percent.

"Economic reactions to declines in productivity are not pleasant," analysts at Briefing.com said in a report.

"The data suggest that firms are oversupplied with labor for the amount of output they are creating," they said.

At the very least, they said, employment would hold at its current level without any motivation from firms to hire more workers.

How to make your offer so appealing that customers beg you to sell-no matter what the price!

by Ken Varga



Hi, I am Ken Varga. I want to share with you some of the ideas, strategies, and principles that allowed me to build 35 businesses during my career.

By earnestly applying the ideas, you will learn how you too can build your business to success, while living an unhurried life, filled with family, friends, fun and a relaxed attitude.

When we ended the last Tip about guaranteeing purchases through risk reversal, I promised to write about the right way of guaranteeing a purchase and reversing the risk for the customer.

There are many ways to do this.

The key is that, if you know that your product or service will provide the customer with an absolute minimum level of results, you should have no problem or fear to state that performance guarantee to the customer.

The more specific, the more measurable, and the more tangible you can make the customer's expectation of a very specific outcome, the more ap-

pealing your proposition will always be to them.

Let me give you a couple of examples:

Remember when Dominos Pizza first started? If you didn't get a pizza delivered to your door in 30 minutes, it was free.

You knew that if you didn't get a hot pizza to your door in 30 minutes, you knew they were the losers, not you.

Do you remember when Federal Express first started? If they didn't get the package delivered to your door by 10:30 am, it was their problem, not yours. They paid, you did not.

Now that's risk reversal.

Did you ever subscribe to a magazine or newsletter, and the reason you subscribed was that they gave you a 60 or 90-day, no-questions-asked, 100% money-back guarantee?

They reversed the risk in the hopes that you would try and like the magazine, or newsletter, so much that you wouldn't cancel your subscription.

The biggest single reason people don't buy products from companies, or professional services, is that they don't want to make a mistake. They don't want to look dumb or mess up.

If you can eliminate all together, the possibility, (not the probability, but the possibility) that anyone will ever screw up, that anyone will ever look bad for making their decision to buy, people can't help but take

advantage of your product in much bigger purchases.

How often have we gone out to buy a car, wondering if the dealer is going to take advantage of our ignorance, and wondering if we paid too much for the car?

What if the dealer offered their vehicles with a no-questions-asked, one-month, 100% money-back guarantee on any new or used car that anyone bought from them?

That would be powerful, wouldn't it?

If you were ever going to buy a car, why in the world would you buy a car from a dealer when you might make a mistake and regret it a week later, when you could buy a car from another dealer with the above guarantee, and get 100% of your money back, no questions asked?

So think about this over this next week.

Think of the many ways you can reverse the risk for the customer and guarantee their purchases.

Risk reversal has made many a company highly successful.

I always recommend it when I consult with companies, because it's the easiest way to steal customers from your competition.

They'll come running to you in droves, once the word gets out about your guarantee and risk reversal offer.

We'll that's it for this Tip.

In the next Tip I'm going to write about a powerful way you can increase your customers' perceived value of your product.

See you then.

To your success,

Ken Varga

Ph: 888-682-2596; Fax: 888-682-2597

Email: ken@kenvarga.com

Website: www.kenvarga.com

China's trade surplus balloons to \$28.7 bln

BEIJING, China (AFP) – China's trade surplus ballooned to 28.7 billion dollars in July as exports hit a record high, the government said yesterday -- data likely to intensify pressure on Beijing for a stronger yuan.

The nation posted its biggest trade surplus since January 2009 as the value of China's overseas shipments reached a monthly record 145.52 billion dollars in July despite slower export growth, customs authorities said.

Stocks across Asia were hit by the data, which showed imports slowed for the fourth straight month in July and fuelled fears the economy was weakening. Several regional markets rely on China's im-

ports to boost their own economies.

Shanghai fell 2.89 percent, while Hong Kong lost 1.50 percent, Sydney dropped 1.18 percent and Tokyo lost 0.22 percent.

The trade figures suggested China had so far seen little impact from the European debt crisis and weak recovery in the United States, as consumers continued to snap up Chinese-made televisions, T-shirts and leather shoes.

July's trade surplus compared with a surplus of 20.02 billion dollars in June and surpassed analyst expectations for 19.6 billion dollars. It also marked a sharp turnaround from March, when the country recorded a trade deficit.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

PUZZLE 44

A	D	A	M	S	H	A	P	E	S	A	W	S		
L	O	B	E	T	I	R	O	S	T	R	I	O		
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M	I	N	T		E	E	R	I	E		E	R	N	E
P	A	D	S		T	W	E	E	D		R	E	E	D

Great steaks are a family tradition at El Gaucho Restaurant



Aruba's longest established and most popular Argentinean steakhouse, El Gaucho, is still going strong after 33 successful years. Two-time winner of the prestigious Wine Spectator Award of Excellence, the restaurant proudly displays the numerous accolades it has received from other such notable wine and food societies as Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, as well as coveted awards for excellence such as the Worldwide Marketing Organization of Mexico, Golden Trophy for Quality Award of Excellence from France, Arch of Europe for Quality from Business Initiative Directions of Germany and International Award for Tourism, Hotel and Catering Industry from Spain.

land visitor where they go for a great steak, you will find most frequently their #1 choice will be The Gaucho Steak; a generous portion of prime tenderloin, charcoal-grilled to perfection. El Gaucho Restaurant also boasts the biggest shishkebab in the Caribbean, as well as a varied menu of fresh local fish and seafood, and everyone's favorite cut of steak and ribs.

2009 has brought some welcome changes; an expanded food and wine menu and the restaurant is now open on Sundays. A variety of lamb and veal dishes now garnish the menu, as well as a hearty 20-oz rib eye to satisfy your appetite.

El Gaucho Restaurant is open for lunch and dinner



Recognized around the world for its quality of service and cuisine, El Gaucho's heartiest applause comes from its loyal clientele, who recommend the restaurant to friends and family with complete confidence in their satisfaction.

When asking a frequent is-

Monday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. until 11:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 5:30 p.m.. Visit their online guestbook at www.elgaucho-aruba.com, and peruse the glorious praise they receive from their devoted fans, as well as the updated menu.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with



house complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50%

with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management department.



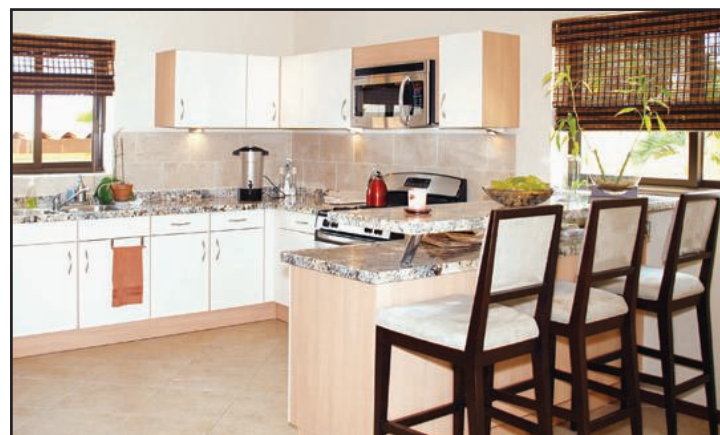
the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning club-

appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an immediate return on their investment.

The design of the struc-



tures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality construction and finishing available. Partnering

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Lady Gaga, Carla Bruni among best dressed: Vanity Fair



Lady Gaga

NEW YORK (AFP) - Singer Lady Gaga, France's First Lady Carla Bruni and Spanish actor Javier Bardem were chosen by Vanity Fair magazine as among the world's best dressed people.

In its September edition released this week, the monthly also mentioned actresses Diane Kruger, Carey Mulligan, Princess Maria of Denmark and US First Lady Michelle Obama in its list of 45 persons.

Samantha Cameron, wife of the British prime minister, also made the cut along with



First Ladies, Carla Bruni and Michelle Obama

filmmaker Martin Scorsese, NBC news anchor Brian Williams and the Duchess of Alba.

Designer John Galliano, photographer Bruce Weber, football player David Beckham, and Argentine polo player Nacho Figueras and his wife Delfina Blaquier also shared the honors.

Shipwrecked champagne good, but not ours: Veuve-Clicquot

PARIS (AFP) - A two-century-old bottle of champagne found in a shipwreck at the bottom of the Baltic tastes great but is not from the house of Veuve-Clicquot, as first thought, the company said recently.

Last month Swedish divers working off Finland found 30 bottles perfectly preserved at a depth of 55 metres (180 feet), perhaps part of a consignment sent by France's King Louis XVI to the Russian Imperial Court.

Because the corks still retained a trace of an anchor logo, experts thought the champagne might have come from the historic Veuve-Clicquot estate, still one of the world's top brands of bubbly.

But, after inspecting and trying a sample of the perfectly preserved vintage, the firm said it was in fact from the now defunct Juglar house.

"For this wine, time has stood still," said Veuve-Clicquot's chief cellarman Dominique Demarville, one of a tiny number of people who has been allowed to taste a few millilitres of the find.

"It seems to me that it must taste the same as it did when it was made."

The bottles were found in only slightly salty water, with

low currents, a constant temperature of five degrees Celsius (41 Fahrenheit), under pressure from the sea and in total darkness as if in a cellar.

"It has an intense golden yellow hue with grey-brown reflections. The taste starts strongly with sugars, but progressively acidity takes over and a fresh sensation invades the palate," Demarville said.

"As it lies in the mouth, impressive smoky sensations dominate, marked by the same peat and tobacco notes that you sense in the nose."

He estimated that the wine dated from the first third of the 19th century, which means it is not clear whether it is the oldest champagne ever drunk, as an 1825 Perrier-Jouet was tasted by experts in London last year.

The remaining bottles, which could number more than the 30 uncovered by the divers, will remain on the seabed for the time being. Their exact location is being kept secret.

Authorities on Aaland will decide who legally owns the contents of the wreck. The archipelago at the mouth of the Gulf of Bothnia belongs to Finland, though it enjoys autonomy from Helsinki and locals speak Swedish.

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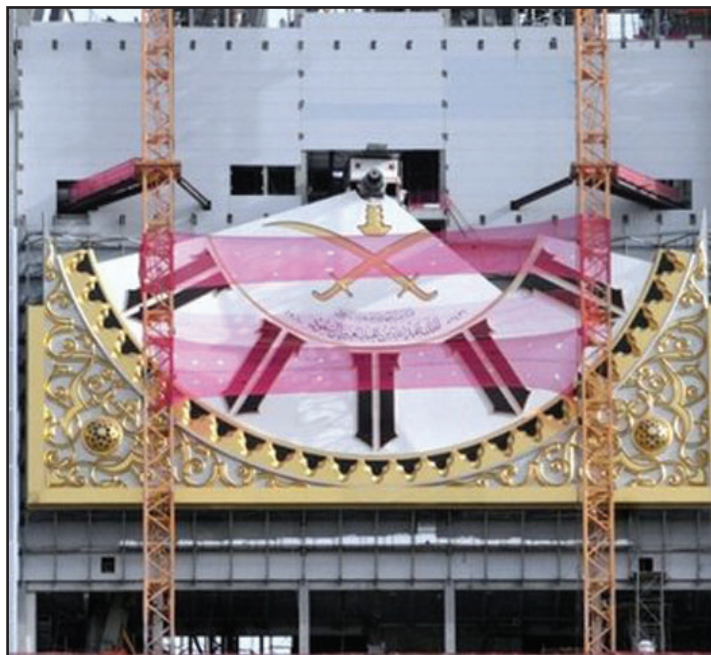
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Saudis hoping giant clock will set 'Mecca Time'



The biggest clock in the world with a 45-meter diameter face is seen under construction near the Grand Mosque in the Saudi Arabian city of Mecca

MECCA, Saudi Arabia (AFP) - Muslims around the world could be setting their watches to a new time soon when the world's largest clock begins ticking atop a soaring skyscraper in Islam's holiest city of Mecca.

Saudi Arabia hopes the four faces of the new clock, which will loom over Mecca's Grand Mosque from what is expected to be the world's second tallest building, will establish Mecca as an alternate time standard to the Greenwich median.

The clock is targeted to enter service with a three-month trial period in the first week of the holy month of Ramadan on or about August 12, according to the Saudi state news agency SPA.

It boasts four glimmering 46 metre-across (151 feet) faces of high-tech composite tiles, some laced with gold, sitting more than 400 metres (1,320 feet) over the Holy Haram compound.

The tower's height will reach 601 metres (1,983 feet), SPA said. On its website, Premiere Composite, which is responsible for cladding the

top section, including a shimmering spire topped by a golden crescent moon, puts the planned height at 590 metres (1,947 feet).

That would make it the world's second tallest building -- ahead of Taiwan's 509 metre (1,670 feet) Taipei 101, but well behind the Burj Khalifa, the 828 metre (2,717 feet) skyscraper inaugurated in Dubai in January.

Some 250 "highly qualified Muslim workers" were completing welding work on the clock's frame, SPA said.

More than six times larger in diameter than London's famed Big Ben, the clock faces, with the Arabic words "In the Name of Allah" in huge lettering underneath and will be lit with two million LED lights.

Some 21,000 white and green coloured lights, fitted at the top of the clock, will flash to as far as 30 kilometres (18.7 miles) to signal Islam's mandatory five-times daily prayers.

On special Muslim occasions, 16 bands of vertical lights will shoot some 10 kilometres (6.2 miles) up into

the sky.

"Everyone is interested to see the clock, despite the lack of sufficient information about it, and its mechanism," said Mecca resident Hani al-Wajeih.

"We in Mecca hope to be the world's central time zone, and not just have a clock to look at, to show off," he said.

Mohammed al-Arkubi, the manager of the Royal Mecca Clock Tower Hotel in the building below, said the installation of the clock, its faces made by the German-owned Dubai company, Premiere Composite Technologies, has been "a huge operation."

The clock reflects a goal by some Muslims to replace the 126-year-old Universal Time standard -- originally called Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) -- with Mecca mean time.

At a conference in Doha in 2008, Muslim clerics and scholars presented "scientific" arguments that Mecca time is the true global meridian. They said that Mecca is the centre of the world and that the Greenwich standard was imposed by the west in 1884.

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Federer keen to test Annacone coaching partnership



Federer

TORONTO (AFP) - Roger Federer begins his first trial run with coach Paul Annacone this week, the Swiss marshalling his forces a day prior to a Toronto Masters clash with Juan Ignacio Chela on Tuesday.

"I thought it was a good time to do a test," said third seed Federer, twice the champion in Toronto. "We're taking it slow, and we'll see what happens. We don't even know yet."

"We'll see how it goes," Federer said of the prospects for a long-term arrangement with Annacone. "And we will take a decision maybe after the US Open and see what I'll do."

Argentina's Chela booked his place in the second round with a 6-0, 6-3 victory over Alejandro Falla on Monday, one of a handful of matches which got on court before weather intervened.

Falla, from Colombia, gave Federer a fright in the first round at Wimbledon before the Swiss pulled out a five-set victory over the number 64, winning 6-0 in the final set.

The third-seeded Federer

has not met Chela since 2006, but owns a 4-0 record over the 30-year-old South American, winning eight of nine sets they have played. Their last meeting came in the first round at Rome in 2006.

Sergiy Stakhovsky of Ukraine dealt a blow to French hopes, ousting Richard Gasquet 7-5, 6-1. The defeat was the second in a row for Gasquet on hard-court after reaching the clay Gstaad final eight days ago. France's Julien Benneteau beat Denis Istomin 6-4, 6-4.

Romanian Victor Hanescu defeated the week's first Canadian participant as he eliminated world number 217 Milos Raonic 6-4, 6-4.

Spain's Tommy Robredo stopped Finnish qualifier Jarkko Nieminen 6-1, 6-4 while South African Kevin Anderson defeated Argentina's Leonardo Mayer 7-6 (7/2), 6-4.

Federer will be competing for the first time since Wimbledon, where he lost in the quarter-finals to eventual finalist Tomas Berdych. Federer uncharacteristically complained about back problems

at the time.

Federer's recent decision to experiment with taking on American Annacone - former mentor to Federer friends Pete Sampras and Tim Henman - as a coach gets a first test of fire in Canada.

Federer said the trial collaboration will continue through the US Open, with his "regular" coach Severin Luthi joining the team and next week in Cincinnati.

Like everything Federer does, the Annacone initiative was a well-coordinated effort.

"Paul came to Switzerland after Wimbledon at some stage," said Federer, whose current number three ranking is his lowest in seven years.

"I had vacation first (a July Mediterranean yacht charter with the extended family), which was key for me to just get back on my feet and feel normal again."

"It took me about 10 days to get over the aches and pains I have had over the three-week period from Halle until the end of Wimbledon."

Despite quarter-final exits at Roland Garros and Wimbledon after winning those titles in 2009, Federer said he has not been weighed down by unfulfilled expectations.

"I don't think I was frustrated after Wimbledon, I was disappointed that my body wasn't holding up and that Berdych played such a good match and that I couldn't defend my Wimbledon dream again."

"I got spoiled and everybody around me got spoiled. When I don't win the tournament, it's not sometimes good enough for people and myself. It's normal that everybody talks a different way all of a sudden."



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Taylor, Styris boost New Zealand



New Zealand cricket captain Ross Taylor plays a shot during the first One Day International (ODI) cricket match of the Micro-max tri-series between New Zealand and India

DAMBULLA (AFP) - Ross Taylor smashed a robust 95 and Scott Styris cracked 89 under pressure as New Zealand posted a challenging 288 against India in the triangular one-day series on Tuesday.

New Zealand were struggling at 28-3 after winning the toss in the day-night match before skipper Taylor and all-rounder Styris propped up the innings with a record 190-run stand for the fourth wicket.

The partnership was New Zealand's best for the fourth wicket in one-day internationals, the previous highest being 168 between Lee Ger-

mon and Chris Harris against Australia in the 1996 World Cup quarter-final at Chennai.

Taylor looked set to complete his fourth one-day hundred when he was trapped leg-before by left-arm seamer Ashish Nehra, who was the most successful bowler with 4-47.

The New Zealand captain hit one six and eight fours in his 113-ball knock.

India paceman Praveen Kumar did the early damage when he had opener Martin Gupthill caught behind for 11 and then bowled debutant Kane Williamson for no score in his lively opening spell.

Nehra was the other wicket-taker in the initial overs, having opener Peter Ingram caught behind for 12.

India then had to wait for more than 31 overs to get another wicket as Taylor and Styris applied themselves remarkably well on a slow pitch to boost the innings.

Styris was bowled by left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha immediately after hoisting the bowler for a straight six. He also completed 4,000 one-day runs during his 95-ball knock.

Sri Lanka are the third team in the tournament. Each side will play the other twice in the preliminary league before the top two qualify for the final on August 28.



Swimmers dive for the men's 200m freestyle semifinal at the European Swimming Championships in Budapest on August 10, 2010. (AFP photo)




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Yang seeks to defend, Mickelson hoping for two-major season

KOHLER (AFP) - The PGA Championship returns to Whistling Straits this week with a South Korean defending champion and its star attraction trying to salvage a lost season.

Former winners Vijay Singh, Phil Mickelson and South Korea's Yang Yong-eun hope to once again seize the moment while world number one Tiger Woods' game is in disarray after coming off the worst performance of his career.

"Last week I didn't have anything," Woods said between practice rounds here on Tuesday. "I have been through periods before where I hit it bad. Yeah, your confidence is not where it needs to be. We have all been there."

"Just life in general the last nine months has been very difficult."

While Woods is without a major win for the first time in two years the same can't be said about Mickelson (Masters), Graeme McDowell (US Open) and Louis Oosthuizen (British Open). They will all be seeking to make it a two-major season at Whistling Straits which is hosting the event for the second time in six years.

Mickelson of the United States, McDowell of Northern Ireland and Oosthuizen of South Africa will begin off



the first tee on Thursday afternoon.

In 2004, Singh, a Fijian-Indian, won a three-hole cumulative playoff over Americans Justin Leonard and Chris DiMarco to become the fourth oldest PGA Championship winner at 41.

Singh's superb 2004 season included winning four tournaments heading into the PGA Championship and he continued his superb play through all four rounds and the playoff.

"I have good memories of the golf course," said Singh,

who also won the PGA Championship in 1998 and a Masters in 2000. "I am looking forward to it."

Oosthuizen earned his first major championship title with a seven-stroke win at last month's British Open.

He parleyed his strong play this season into a contender spot in the season's final major championship which begins on Thursday on the links style course.

"I am confident and quite anxious to start the tournament and gets things under way," Oosthuizen said on Tuesday before setting out for his first practice round.

Oosthuizen said he is looking forward to the challenge of tackling the Whistling Straits course and its close to 1,000 bunkers.

"It could scar me for life," Oosthuizen said. "I heard a few things about it."

"I am looking forward to just going out and seeing what it is like teeing off. It should be fun."

Said DiMarco, "The course has a lot of distractions. The fairways are plenty big enough. The greens are plenty big enough. If you look at it like 'Oh, my gosh look at all the trouble' then it is a very difficult golf course."

"It is a great venue for a major for sure."

Woods' game has hit the skids. He is coming off his worst performance of his career last week when he shot a fourth-round 77 to finish in a tie for 78th at the World Golf Championships Bridgestone Invitational -- a tournament he had won seven times.

He finished 18-over 298, a whopping 30 shots behind winner Hunter Mahan.

"It is not a matter of how poorly I played the week be-

fore because this is a new week," Woods said. "I have got to build my game day-by-day. I had two good practice sessions and that is a step in the right direction."

Yang became the first Asian player to win a major championship at last year's tournament held at Hazeltine National Golf Club.

He shocked the golfing world by upsetting Woods and his feat was all the more remarkable because Woods hadn't lost a major in which he led after 54 holes.

Woods and Yang will again battle side-by-side through the first two rounds at Whistling Straits. Joining them in the threesome is Singh as the trio start their round on Thursday morning off the 10th tee and then Friday afternoon off the first tee.

Justin Rose and Jim Furyk have multiple wins this season and have grown in stature. But they will have their hands full with the strongest field of any of the majors in 2010.

"These are not the easiest of times economically," said golf course owner Herb Kohler. "But we expect to have more of the top players of the world than any of the other majors."

Another player quietly lurking is South Africa's Ernie Els who will be competing in his 17th PGA Championship.

The three-time major winner is playing some of his best golf in a long time with a top-three finish at the US Open and two wins in March.




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Bolt out for rest of season

PARIS (AFP) - World sprint sensation Usain Bolt on yesterday ruled himself out of the rest of the 2010 season because of a back problem that affects his striding power.

The Jamaican, who won gold in both the 100 and 200 metres at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the 2009 worlds, and is world record holder in both events, suffered his first defeat in two years when beaten by American Tyson Gay in the 100m in Stockholm on Friday.

After that outing, Bolt underwent medical examinations and was told by Dr Hans Mueller-Wohlfahrt in Munich on Monday that he risked injuring his hamstring

or calf if he continued to race with a tightness in his lower back.

According to Mueller-Wohlfahrt, that tightness restricts the Jamaican's ability to generate power in his stride.

Bolt has now withdrawn from the IAAF Diamond League meetings in Zurich and Brussels, the latter August 27 meeting tagged as a showdown between the Jamaican, Gay and former world record holder Asafa Powell, also of Jamaica.

Bolt's agent Ricky Simms said in a statement: "With a view to his future career we believe further treatment to loosen his back followed by a period of rest will be in his

best interest.

"We are delighted to report that the MRI scan on his achilles tendon showed that it has now completely healed."

Bolt added: "I am very disappointed to miss two of the top meetings on the circuit - Zurich and Brussels - but trust that it is better for me not to take any risks this year.

"2011 and 2012 are very important Championship years (with the worlds in Daegu and Olympics in London respectively) and I hope to be back fully fit and healthy.

"I would like to thank everyone for their support and look forward to coming back stronger next year," said Bolt.



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FIFA planning refereeing overhaul: Blatter

FRANKFURT (AFP) - FIFA president Sepp Blatter said Tuesday that world football's governing body were planning a refereeing revamp as he reiterated his reservations concerning the use of goal-line technology.

"The principle work in football now, I already said it before the World Cup, is refereeing," Blatter said on the German Football Federation (DFB) website.

"End October-beginning November, we're going to unveil our project on high level referees. There will be a rejuvenation ... I am for professionalisation, even if there are views against."

He added: "Concerning the help of technical means, it's more complicated. Every system must be studied in detail with a view to an eventual



use."

Goal-line technology was forced back onto FIFA's agenda during the World Cup after England's Frank Lampard had a legitimate goal disallowed, while Mexico were aggrieved when Argentinian striker Carlos Tevez was clearly offside when he scored the first goal.

That incident was made worse when a replay was shown on the big screen at the stadium. Blatter later apologised for both incidents.



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